Pending Legislation as of July 27, 2011

AB 42 (Huffman D) State Parks

Status: 7/11/2011 – In Senate Appropriations Committee. Placed on suspense file.

Amended: 7/6/2011 (Adds eligibility to organization that is in compliance with the Supervision of Trustees and Fundraisers for Charitable Purposes Act)

Summary: This bill would authorize the Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into an operating agreement for the development, improvement, restoration, care, maintenance, administration, or operation of a unit or units of the state park system, as identified by the director, with a qualified nonprofit organization that exists to provide visitor services in state parks, facilitate public access to park resources, improve park facilities, or provide interpretive and educational services. This bill would require the operating agreement to include a requirement that the nonprofit organization annually submit a report to the Department. The bill would also require the nonprofit organization and the district superintendent for the department to hold a joint public meeting for discussion of the report. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2019.

AB 64 (Jeffries R) State Parks: Closure: Operating Agreements

Status: 5/31/2011 – Reconsideration granted. Read third time. Re-referred to Committee on Real Estate.

Amended: 4/11/2011 - Majority of text deleted from original bill. No longer specific to California Citrus State Historic Park and City of Riverside.

Summary: This bill would make a statement of legislative findings and declarations, including the intent of the Legislature to encourage the Department of Parks and Recreation to actively seek to negotiate operating agreements with local governments who have the interest and capacity to assist the state in operating a state park, to minimize the number of state parks that could otherwise be subject to closure due to the budget challenges facing the state.

AB 628 (Conway R) Vehicles: Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation: County of Inyo

Status: Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations. Hearing scheduled for 8/15/2011.

Amended: 7/6/2011 (non-substantive)

Summary: This bill would, until January 1, 2017, authorize the County of Inyo to establish a pilot project that would exempt specified combined-use highways in the unincorporated area in the County of Invo from the limitation that a highway segment designated for combined OHV and regular traffic use may not be longer than three miles long. The highways of this rural county can be used to link together existing roads in the unincorporated portion of the county to existing off-highway motor vehicle trails and trailheads on federal Bureau of Land Management or United States Forest Service lands, and to link off-highway motor vehicle recreational-use areas with necessary service and lodging facilities, in order to provide a unified linkage of trail systems for off-highway motor vehicles, as prescribed.

SB 356 (Blakeslee R) State Parks: Local Operating Agreements

Status: Re-referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Hearing scheduled for 8/17/2011.

Amended: 6/30/2011 (State funding would not be provided to a county or city if the full operation of the park is turned over).

Summary: This bill would require the Department of Parks and Recreation, if it proposes to fully close a unit of the state park system, with no planned public access, to notify the county or city in which the unit is located. The bill would require the Department to enter into negotiations with a county or city that notifies the Department of its intention to take over the operation and maintenance of a unit of the state park system in response to the Department's notice.

The bill would also require an agreement entered into to include certain provisions, including a provision that would require the length of the term of the agreement to be not less than one year and not longer than five years, with an option to renew upon the conclusion of the agreement.

SB 386 (Harman R) State Parks: Proposed Closures: Public Notice

Status: Re-referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Hearing scheduled 8/17/2011.

Amended: 6/30/2011 (non-substantive)

Summary: This bill would require the Department of Parks and Recreation to post on its Internet web site, at least 30 days prior to the date the Department plans to close a unit of the state park system to public access, specified information about the proposed park closure, including information about how to contact the Department in writing if an individual or other party is interested in entering into negotiations with the Department for a contract or agreement to lease, operate, maintain, or provide concessions at a unit of the state park system that is proposed to be closed. The bill would also require the Department to respond in writing to any inquiry received in connection with the information provided pursuant to those provisions. This bill contains other related provisions.

HR 1581 (McCarthy R) Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act of 2011

Status: 7/26/2011 – House Natural Resources: Held in Subcommittee Hearings.

Summary: This bill would release all Wilderness Study Areas and Inventoried Roadless Areas, which have been recommended as not suitable for wilderness by the Bureau of Land Management or the United State Forest Service, and direct that they be managed for multiple use.

This legislation would terminate Secretarial Order 3310 and prohibit the Interior Secretary from issuing a national regulation or directive that directs how released lands will be managed.

This legislation would release roadless areas within the National Forest System, which have been recommended as not suitable for a wilderness designation by the Forest Service.

This legislation would terminate the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule and the 2005 State Petition Rule, and prohibit the Agriculture Secretary from issuing a national regulation or directive that directs how released roadless areas will be managed.

SB 580 (Wolk D) State Parks: Acquired Land: Limits on Disposition or Use

Status: 7/7/2011 – Set, second hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

Amended: 6/20/2011. Specific language added regarding Candlestick Point State Recreation Area.

Summary: This bill would prohibit land acquired for the state park system, through public funds or gifts, from being disposed of or used for other purposes incompatible with park purposes without the substitution of other land. This bill would require the State Park and Recreation Commission, following a duly noticed public hearing, to certify that all requests to dispose of or use the land for other purposes incompatible with park purposes provide for the substitution of other land meeting certain criteria.

This legislation will not apply to existing uses of state park lands that have been authorized on or before January 1, 2012, by written agreement with the Department of Parks and Recreation or by the general plan for a state park unit.

S 138 (Feinstein D) California Desert Protection Act of 2011

Status: 1/25/2011 – Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Summary: California Desert Protection Act of 2011 – Amends the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 to, among other things: (1) establish or designate national monuments, wilderness areas, a special management area, and off-highway vehicle recreation areas; (2) release specified wilderness study areas; (3) adjust national park and preserve boundaries; and (4) specify land withdrawals, exchanges, and acquisitions.

This legislation amends the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate specified segments of rivers and creeks as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

There are no changes to the titles regarding national monuments, special management areas, National Park system additions, off-highway vehicle recreation areas. Title II – Desert Renewable Energy Permitting of the California Desert Protection Act of 2010 has not been included in the California Desert Protection Act of 2011.